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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Ray Ekness, television producer/director, or William Marcus, Broadcast Media Center director, (406) 243-4101.

MONTANA PBS TO AIR HISTORIC PROGRAM ON BUTTE'S COLUMBIA GARDENS

MISSOULA —

"Remembering the Columbia Gardens," a documentary about Butte's famous amusement park, will be rebroadcast Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Montana PBS.

The Columbia Gardens, a Butte landmark for more than seven decades, was renowned for its roller coaster, carousel and huge dance pavilion. It was built by copper baron William Clark in 1898 and closed in 1973 to make way for expansion of an open pit copper mine, which consumed much of downtown Butte.

Ray Ekness, a producer and director at KUFM-TV, the Montana PBS station based at The University of Montana, created the program. He compiled historical photographs, archival and family film, and personal recollections during two years of research on the program. The first broadcast in October generated more than 200 phone calls for video copies.

"Remembering the Columbia Gardens" was funded by the Montana Arts Council through the Montana Cultural Trust, the Greater Montana Foundation and the Friends of Montana PBS.

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CBS
Local, state dailies
Cgardens.rl